

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6707

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET LANGUAGE ON PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS

REF: A. BONN 17186; B) GENEVA 6349 (NOTAL)

1. UPON RECEIPT REF A WITH INDICATION PARA 3 THAT SOVIETS HAD PASSED NEW TEXT ON PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS IN GENEVA, WE QUERIED FRG DEL WHICH CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD KOVALEV GAVE FRG DELEGATION HEAD BRUNNER FOLLOWING TEXT IN FRENCH OCTOBER 23. QUOTE: LES ETATS PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERENT QUE LEURS FRONTIERES PEUVENT ETRE MODIFIEE SEULEMENT CONFORMEMENT AU DROIT INTERNATIONAL PAR DES MOYENS PACIFIQUES ET PAR VOIES D'ACCORD. UNQUOTE.

2. SOVIETS DID NOT EXPLICITLY RETRACT TEXTS PREVIOUSLY PASSED TO GENSCHER IN NEW YORK OR TO DEPARTMENT THROUGH VORONTSOV, BUT INDICATED THIS WAS LANGUAGE THEY NOW WISHED TO SUPPORT. THEY HAVE NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SHOWN TEXT TO OTHER DELS.

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3. COMMENT. FRG DEL AGREES WITH OUT ASSESSMENT THAT SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE TAKING STEP BACKWARD. OCTOBER 23 TEXT IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO FRENCH TRANSLATION OF FOLLOWING SENTENCE AGREED TO PROVISIONALLY BY SUB-COMMITTEE APRIL 5 WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR IT IN PROINCIPLES DECLARATION WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE FOUND: QUOTE: THE PARTICIPATING STATES CONSIDER THAT THEIR FRONTIERS CAN BE CHANGED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS AND BY AGREEMENT. UNQUOTE. SINGLE VARIATION IS THAT CONCEPT OF "ONLY" WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS EXPRESSED BY "NE...QUE" HAS BEEN TRANSLATED AS "SEULEMENT." THIS CHANGE WOULD APPEAR TO REDUCE AMBIGUITY OF APRIL 5 TEXT AND MAKE IT CORRESPONDINGLY CLEARER THAT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW" IS A THRID CONDITION FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS. FRG DEL, WHICH AS REPORTED REF B REMAINS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SOVIET LANGUAGE GIVEN TO GENSCHER IN NEW YORK, ACCORDINGLY DOES NOT VIEW LATEST VERSION OF SOVIET WORD GAME AS ENCOURAGING.

4. ON RELATED SUBJECT FRG DEL TELLS US THEIR PRESENT THINKING IS THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER TEXT ON PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS AND PLACEMENT ISSUE AFTER COMPLETING DRAFTING OF FIRST NINE PRINCIPLES BUT BEFORE EMBARKING ON TENTH PRINCIPLE (FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS). THAT WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD MEAN FAIRLY SOON AFTER CHRISTMAS RECESS. FRG HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED IT WISHED TO RETURN TO THIS ISSUE ONLY AFTER COMPLETION OF FIRST READING OF PRINCIPLES DECLARATION. DESIRE TO ADVANCE TIMETABLE MAY REFLECT SOME NERVOUSNESS OVER APPARENTLY TOUGHER LINE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE TAKING AND CONSEQUENTLY A DESIRE TO PIN TEXT DOWN BEFORE GOING TOO MUCH FURTHER.DALE

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